

To: Enck, Judith[Enck.Judith@epa.gov]; McCabe, Catherine[McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov]; Matthews, Joan[Matthews.Joan@epa.gov]; Plevin, Lisa[Plevin.Lisa@epa.gov]
Cc: Shore, Berry[Shore.Berry@epa.gov]
From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Mon 2/22/2016 2:26:50 PM
Subject: TWO inquiries-- one from Congressman Gibson's office and one from Senator Gillibrand

From: Connors, David (Gillibrand) [mailto:David_Connors@gillibrand.senate.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 9:01 AM

To: Shore, Berry <Shore.Berry@epa.gov>

Cc: Baugh, Jordan (Gillibrand) <Jordan_Baugh@gillibrand.senate.gov>

Subject: Times Union: Petersburg water tainted with PFOA, tests show

Berry,

Can you provide us with an analysis of this issue? I understand by reading this report that the ppt is under 100ppt, but we are interested to learn if EPA has any role in evaluating this local issue beyond the local testing that has been done and reported below. Please advise.

Petersburgh water tainted with PFOA, tests show

Bottled water available for residents at town hall

Kenneth C. Crowe II and Lindsay Ellis

Updated 8:40 pm, Saturday, February 20, 2016

Petersburgh

Residents lined up at Town Hall Saturday afternoon to get bottled water after state tests detected the same toxic industrial chemical in the small municipal water system that's poisoned water in nearby Hoosick Falls.

Those residents have followed news of Hoosick Falls' ordeal, now they're dealing with it.

"It's going to be a nuisance," said Priscilla Dunlop, 75, as she lugged two jugs of water out to her SUV.

"They found PFOA," said Scott DeGiorgio, another resident picking up bottled water, stating the four-letter abbreviation for perfluorooctanoic acid that's become the nightmare coming out of residents' taps.

"I have a private well. I live a mile from Taconic Plastics on the (Hoosic River)," said Kathy Share. "It's scary."

The state Health Department said it tested the town's water after being notified by Taconic Plastics that groundwater at its Petersburg plant was contaminated.

"We've been handling it the best we can – we're forthright with everything we're finding out and trying to come up with solutions," Town Supervisor Peter Schaaphok said about the impact in the rural eastern Rensselaer County town of 1,525 residents.

Schaaphok learned of the PFOA results Friday night when state officials called to say Health Department tests showed the chemical was found in a raw water sample collected from Well No. 2, which supplies 75 households. That sampling showed a concentration of 93.3 parts per trillion (ppt). The cutoff point that's considered safe for water consumption is 100 ppt.

Several other wells that supply households are nearby, Schaaphok said.

The chemical was also detected in a tap water sample at a concentration of 95.9 ppt, according to state and town officials.

"We want people to remain calm," said Jim Malatras, director of state operations.

County Executive Kathleen Jimino, noting the results are just below the EPA ceiling, called the water distribution a precaution. The water trucked to Petersburg Saturday by county trucks was donated by Hannaford.

Beginning Monday, Taconic Plastics will supply 5-gallon water coolers to residents, officials said.

Located 11 miles down Route 22 from the village of Hoosick Falls, Petersburg is in an early stage of acknowledgement and response.

Malatras said it's too early to determine if state Superfund money will be needed.

In Hoosick Falls, the temporary water system that was to go on line Friday encountered problems as the new carbon filtration system was brought on line, county officials said.

The state, town and county are systematically working on testing wells surrounding Taconic Plastics for PFOA.

State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said the Hoosac River is being tested for the chemical both upstream and downstream of the plastics factory.

As a precautionary measure, Rensselaer County is testing systems that draw their water from wells: the villages of Nassau, Schaghticoke and Castleton-on-Hudson, and the towns of Schodack and East Greenbush.

PFOA, a man-made chemical, was used since the 1940s to manufacture industrial and

household products such as non-stick coatings and heat-resistant wiring. It has been linked to kidney and testicular cancer, as well as thyroid diseases and other serious health problems.

County Legislature Chairman Stan Brownell, R-Hoosick, said the tests in the town of Berlin, south of Petersburg, came in below 10 ppt.

Taconic Plastics said in a statement that it is conducting a site evaluation and has asked the state DEC and Health Department for guidance.

"The company is fully cooperating with both agencies and will take whatever steps these agencies deem appropriate regarding this matter," the statement reads.

The county will distribute water from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday at Town Hall.

Taconic Plastics will take over the water distribution, also at Town Hall, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday.

The schedule will continue until further notice.

Below are two different inquiries. One focused on Hoosick flushing and another from Senator Gillibrand's office asking about St. Petersburg. We will need to decide how to respond and also will need to alert HQ. Perhaps we can discuss at the end of senior staff?

From: Shore, Berry

Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2016 1:41 PM

To: Matthews, Joan <Matthews.Joan@epa.gov>
Cc: Carpenter, Angela <Carpenter.Angela@epa.gov>; Simon, Paul <Simon.Paul@epa.gov>; Evangelista, Pat <Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov>; McGowan, Michael <McGowan.Michael@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Romanowski, Larisa <Romanowski.Larisa@epa.gov>; McCabe, Catherine <McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov>; Rotola, Joe <Rotola.Joe@epa.gov>; Gratz, Jeff <Gratz.Jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Hoosick Falls Flushing

Joan:

The note below is from Congressman Gibson's district director Steve Bulger.

It appears that the best approach here might be to get back to the Congressman's office by phone??

I will touch base with you on Monday so we can determine an approach.

From: Bulger, Steve [<mailto:Steve.Bulger@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2016 1:29 PM
To: Shore, Berry <Shore.Berry@epa.gov>
Subject: Hoosick Falls Flushing

Hi Berry,

We're getting contacted by constituents and some local officials regarding the impending flushing of the Hoosick Falls water system as the new carbon filtration system gets ready to go online. We're told that the EPA and DEC are regulating this flushing process and must sign off before anything is done.

So, the Congressman asked me to reach out to your team to get some answers if possible that we can then pass along to those folks with concerns about how it will be handled.

Specifically, these are the concerns we're hearing:

- 1. What is the current plan for flushing the system, and how long is it expected to take?**
- 2. Will the flushed water be treated to reduce PFOA at all before it is released into the environment, specifically the Hoosick River?**
- 3. Will there be monitoring of the Hoosick River to see if there is any spike of PFOA in the river due to the flushing process? This is important as downstream private wells could be impacted by such a spike. It also assumes the Hoosick River has been tested already so we have a baseline to compare levels with pre and post flush.**
- 4. What will be the acceptable level of PFOA in the flushed water as it's released into the environment - we assume it's the recommendation of 100 ppt?**

Thanks Berry - appreciate any insights here as we move forward.

Steve Bulger

District Director

Congressman Chris Gibson - NY 19th CD

518-610-8133 (office)